THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) Channel-wise average daily listeners of AIR Banglore are as follows:—

SI. No.	Channel	Number of listeners
1.	Primary Channel (Medium Wave) Vividh Bharati	65.32 lakhs 21.38
2.	(Medium Wave) Rainbow (FM)	lakhs 36.67 lakhs
3.	Amurthavarshini (FM)	1.66 lakhs
4.		

(b) and (c) Amruthavarshini is a Classical Music Channel". This channel is airing mainly 'Carnatic Classical Music' and 'Hindustani Classical Music' for four hour daily from 6.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. A24-hour Carnatic Music Channel on the DTH receivable through TV set is proposed to launched in the second half of 2006.

Kannada news on DD channel

1416. SHRI KB. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested to air Kannada news on DD-I channel; and

(b) if so, the status of the above request?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BORADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) and (b): No, Sir. However, a request for extension of terrestrial time for Karnataka on DD-I was received from the Government of Karnataka. Prasar Bharati has not found it possible to accede to this request due to various constraints, for the present.

Policy of FM radio stations

1417. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new policy relating to starting of FM radio stations envisages setting up 336 such stations in 90 cities, if so, the reasons for which rural areas have been left out especially where radio is the primary source of entertainment and information;

(b) whether the All india Radio network covers the entire rural areas, hilly terrain and far-flung areas in North-East and Ladakh; and

(c) if not, what percentage of the inhabitated areas still remain to be covered and what steps Government propose to give 100 per cent coverage by AIR and later on by TV network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) In Phase II of expansion of FM Radio service through private agencies, 337 Channels across the 91 cities were offered. Though stations would be located withfin the municipal limits of these 91 cities, rural areas within the coverage zone of these stations would also get serviced. Location of private radio stations have been chosen keeping in view the population of the cities, commercial viability and coverage by existing or proposed private FM radio stations.

(b) and (c) AIR covers 91.42% of area and 99.13% of population of the country. Uncovered areas are mainly in hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and North East States. After completion of 10th Plan Schemes, the coverage will go up to 92.92% by area and 99.49% by population. Besides, whole of the country is covered through short wave radio signals. In addition, 12 radio Channels are also available through Doordarshan's KU Band (free air DTH) Transmission service, which can be listened to throughout the country (except A&N Islands) with the help of a small size Dish Receiving Unit.

Doordarshan's free DTH Service provides television coverage in the entire country (except A&N Islands) including North East, Ladakh, rural and hilly areas. Terrestrial mode TV coverage is available to about 91% of the population of the country.

Showing the film 'Rang De Basanti'

1418. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the film 'Rang De Basanti' had to be shown to Defence Minister and Chiefs of Armed Forces before screening it in public;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it was mandatory to show the film after having been cleared by Censor Board; and

(d) if so, whether there is any precedent of this type?